public telephone booths at student hostels progressively on franchise basis.

(c) 21 student hostels have been provided with public telephone facility.

(d) As stated in (b) above.

Automation of Telephone Exchanges

92. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States in the country have all their telephone exchanges converted into automatic ones;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of telephone exchange in the State of Madhya Pradesh that have been converted into automatic ones; and

(d) by when rest of the telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh would be converted into automatic ones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The information is given in the statement attached [*See* below].

(c) and (d) As on 31.3.91, there were 94 Manual Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh 28 out of these have been converted into electronic exchanges upto 31.1.92. As per objectives of Draft 8th Plan, the remaining Manual Exchanges will be converted into automatic by March, 1994.

Statement

The following States and Union Territories have all their telephone exchanges converted into automatic ones:

Sl. No.	States
1.	Karnataka
2.	Orissa
3.	Kerala
4.	Goa
5.	Sikkim
6.	Manipur
7.	Meghalaya
8.	Arunachal Pradesh
9.	Mizoram
10.	Tripura

Sl. No.	Union Territories
1.	Delhi
2.	Daman & Diu
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
4.	Chandigarh
5.	Pondicherry
6.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
7.	Lakshdweep

Pending Applications for Telephone Connection

93. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone connections sanctioned during the last five years State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) what is the number of applications for telephone connections pending with Government State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to step up sanction of telephone connections; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Number of telephone connections provided during the last five years and the waiting list of telephone connections as on 31.12.1991 are given in the Annexure.

(See Appendix CLXII, the Annexure No. 2)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Telecommunication has formulated draft 8th five year plan (1992-97) for

telecom development to provide 75 lakh new telephone connections in five years thereby substantially stepping up the rate of provision of telephones.

संचार के संबंध में सरकार की नीति

94. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय**: क्या **संचार** मंत्री 17 जुलाई, 1991 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न सं० 252 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार द्वारा संचार नीति तैयार कर ली गई है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इसे बजट सत्र के दौरान संसद में रखेगी?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू): (क) नीति अभी तैयार की जा रही है।

(ख) नीति को अंतिम रूप दे देने के बाद उसे सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा;

राष्ट्रकवि "दिनकर" पर स्मारक डाक टिकट

95. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय**: क्या **संचार** मंत्री 4 सितम्बर, 1991 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न सं० 482 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि राष्ट्रकवि रामधारी दिनकर के सम्मान में स्मारक डाक टिकट जारी करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है और उसके संबंध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू): राज्य सभा के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 482 के उत्तर में यह बताया गया था कि श्री दिनकर पर डाक टिकट जारी करने के प्रस्ताव को फिलैटलिक सलाहकार समिति की अगली बैठक में विचारार्थ रखा जाना है। उपर्युक्त प्रस्ताव को फिलैटलिक सलाहकार समिति की आगामी बैठक की कार्यसूची में शामिल कर लिया गया है जो शीघ्र ही होगी।

Counting of Service rendered as RTP for Pension Purposes in P&T Department

96. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to treat the service rendered as RTP by the Postal and Telegraph Employees before their absorption as permanent staff in the department, as qualifying service, at least for calculating their pension when they retire;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Department of Posts have referred the matter for advice. As far as Department of Telecom is concerned there is no such reference.

(c) There is no such case in the Department of Telecom.

Entitlement of Free Conveyance to Group 'A' Postal Officers

97. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Group 'A' Postal Officers in Senior Time Scale of Rs. 3000-4500 are entitled to free conveyance from residence to office and back;

(b) if not whether some Senior Manager of Mail Motor Service, New Delhi who always use departmental vehicle on Government expense for the purpose, have been specially permitted; and

(c) what are the category of such officers of Delhi Postal Circle who entiteld to free conveyance from residence to office and back?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI (P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such permission has been given